

label 3, if any. Manufacturing the loose clothing sleeve holder FIG 5 comprises generally, assembling the various component parts. In the preferred embodiment, a label 3 is prepared with the desired graphics, if any, by mechanical printing or silk screening. The reflective strip 14, is sized according to preference so that it overlays end 10, between the label 3 and the female fastener 5. The reflective strip is substantially parallel to the end cut of the material 7 and coupled to the strap by sewing 9. The label 3 is sized according to preference so that the label 3 overlays partially end 10. The male member 6 is placed at the preferred end 10 and the female member 5 is placed at the alternate end 11 and on the opposite surface 13 as the male 6 member. The loose clothing sleeve holder is then sewn 9 around the label 3 perimeter to secure it to the strap 8. The male member 6 is sewn 9 around its perimeter to couple it to strap 8 as is the female member 5 sewn around its perimeter to secure it to strap 8.

While the invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments, modifications and variations of the invention may be constructed without departing from the scope of the invention which is defined claims.

## CLAIMS

1. A method for securing loose clothing around a human's waist by holding said clothing sleeves together with a fastened strap. Said strap comprising:
  - a) material having sufficient size to accommodate use by a human being,
  - b) an elongated shape and at least one layer of said material,
  - c) an upper and lower side, wherein said upper and lower sides are relatively smooth uninterrupted surfaces,
  - d) predetermined length to fit around said sleeves,
  - e) a fastening mechanism coupled to said strap on opposite sides thereof and where neither of said fastening mechanism traverses the entire length of said strap,
  - f) placement of said strap between user's waist and around said loose clothing sleeves such that said strap is substantially perpendicular to said user's waist,
  - g) fastening of said strap by engaging said fastening mechanism.

2. The method for securing loose clothing sleeves is recited in claim 1 wherein said strap further comprises a label coupled to said upper side of said strap.
3. The method for securing loose clothing sleeves is recited in claim 1 wherein said material further comprises a textile fabric.
4. The method for securing loose clothing sleeves is recited in claim 1 wherein said material further comprises fabric.
5. A method for holding loose clothing around a user's waist by holding said clothing sleeves together with an article not attached to said clothing.

## **Abstract**

A loose clothing holder for releasibly retaining loose clothing around a user's waist comprises a strap of material, having two sides and two ends, the strap being sufficiently flexible so that the strap may be positioned around the clothing sleeves. Preferably, the strap comprises a single layer of fabric sold under the trademark, Cordura and manufactured by E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company Wilmington, Delaware. The loose clothing sleeve holder has a fastening mechanism coupled to each end of the strap at opposite sides thereof. The fastening mechanism preferably comprises cooperating hook and loop fastener fabric. The loose clothing holder may also have a label coupled to the upper side of the strap which label may contain graphics or other logos. Preferably, the label comprises fabric transfer paper. The loose clothing holder may also have reflective fabric coupled to the upper side of the strap. Preferably, the reflective fabric comprises a textile fabric comprising glass spheres bonded with waterproof resin. A method of using the loose clothing holder comprises placing the strap around the sleeves of the loose clothing that has been placed around the user's waist, so that the strap is perpendicular to the user's hips where it is coupled near or at the ends by activating the

fastening mechanism and with sufficient holding pressure to reasonably hold the sleeves of the garment together.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to coats and other garments which are worn around a person's waist. More specifically, this invention relates to long sleeved garments and devices which are used to prevent the loose clothing from falling from around the person's waist or becoming so loose that the clothing becomes uncomfortable to wear. This invention replaces the tying of sleeves to keep sleeved loose clothing around a person's waist more securely.

It is of course well known that clothing with long sleeves can be comfortably worn outdoors, but very uncomfortable or undesirable when worn indoors. Once the clothing is removed, a sometimes temporary solution is to wrap the clothing around the wearer's waist and to tie the sleeves together, to carry the clothing. Other alternatives, but no less undesirable, can include leaving the outer clothing at a remote location.

As mentioned above individuals who are indoors may desire to store their loose outer clothing while inside, however, athletes or people who engage in everyday activities including, but not limited to competitive and non-competitive athletic events, as well as leisure activities would not find it convenient or even practical to store their garments. Again, however, the problem of loose outer clothing either becoming too loose so as to be uncomfortable to wear around a person's waist, so loose as to fall off, or simply tying sleeves is an undesirable method of treatment for fragile, expensive outer clothing. Moreover, younger children who can't tie may be unable to wear their coat around their waist unless they have continual assistance to tie and re-tie the sleeves. Also, children's coat sleeves are typically too short to be effectively tied and the resulting knot creates comfortable bulk to be tolerated for more than a few minutes.

Wearing a coat indoors can create discomfort, from being overly warm, and again when going outdoors, from an inability to feel warm. Carrying a coat can be impractical and a cumbersome task.

The invented device keeps the coat in the familiar position around the wearer's waist, but replaces tying the coat sleeves with securing the sleeves together in a snug, flat, comfortable and secure method. By securing the sleeves, the device virtually does away with the constant re-tightening of sleeves and removes the need to pull the sleeves as tight as possible to keep it in place can sometimes constrict breathing.

By joining the sleeves, the wearer can keep the article of clothing around his or her waist, comfortably positioned, for as long as they desire. The device accommodates various sleeve sizes from the thinnest "windbreaker" to the thickest "winter" coat, giving the person the ability to wear a coat around the waist that either formerly could not be done, was too difficult to do or was impractical. Once the person no longer wishes to store their loose clothing around their waist, the invented device is simply removed.

## **BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention is directed to a device that satisfies the need to securely but removably retain a person's loose long sleeved clothing around her or his waist. The loose clothing sleeve holder comprises an elongated strap of at least one layer of material having an upper and a lower side, and having a first end and a second end. Numerous materials are available for the strap, including substantially any textile material, or any material suitable for use as a clothing accessory. The loose clothing sleeve holder is placed around the user's coat sleeves and fastened with a fastening device. In the referred embodiment, the fastening mechanism comprises cooperating strips of hook and loop fastener fabric.

The loose clothing sleeve holder may further contain a label coupled to the upper side of the strap; however a label is not required. The label may overlay the entire upper side of the strap, or the label may overlay only a portion of the upper side of the strap.

Numerous materials are available for the label, if any, and include substantially the same types of materials as available for the strap.

The loose clothing sleeve holder may additionally contain reflective fabric coupled to the upper side of the strap, however, reflective fabric is not required. The reflective strip may overlay the entire upper side of the strap, or the reflective strip may overlay only a portion of the upper side of the strap. Numerous materials are available for the reflective strip, if any, and include textile fabric comprising glass spheres bonded with waterproof resin.

Additionally, various methods of coupling the label and, separately, the reflective strip are available. These include but are not limited to, the following: mechanical methods (such as sewing, stapling, buttoning, snapping, and the like); chemical methods (such as gluing or otherwise adhering on material to another); and physical methods (such as stamping, heat sealing, and the like).

In the preferred embodiment, the loose clothing sleeve holder comprises a strap of and the fastening mechanism comprises cooperating hook and loop fastener fabric coupled to opposite sides at opposite ends of the strap. Also in the preferred embodiment, a label and separate reflective fabric are coupled to the upper side of the strap.

The preferred embodiment provides simple, effective retention of a long sleeved coat around a user's waist. It is also understood that the use is not limited to a coat, but can be used with any clothing with sleeves of such size to substantially wrap and join around a user's waist. In one method of use, the user can lay the sleeves of the coat in front of the user's waist. It is understood that laying sleeves together is one method of combining sleeves and the use of the device is not limited to that use but may include twisting,

crossing, and folding, sleeves. The user slides the strap behind the combined sleeves substantially perpendicular to the user's hips, wraps the device around the sleeves by bringing the bottom of the strap under the sleeves, the top over the sleeves and pulls the device tightly against the sleeves to adjust the retention, and fastens the device by combining the hook and loop fastener fabric thereby encircling the gathered coat sleeves. Now the encircled sleeves are held in place by the invented device, retaining its position around the user's waist. The user can proceed to move and be active without the sleeves, and thereby the coat, loosening to an uncomfortable position including but not limited to sliding down the user's body or falling off.

As can be seen, an object of this invention is to provide a device which securely retains loose clothing around a user's waist.

Another object of this invention is to provide a device which is simply releasable so as to be removed when not in use.

A further object of this invention is to provide a device which securely retains loose clothing around a user's waist but requires no attachment or additional appurtenances to the sleeve of the clothing or the garment to which the invention is applied.